



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PORT MORESBY

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# MEDIA RELEASE

### **Manus small business entrepreneurs complete training**

More than 150 men and women entrepreneurs from Manus Province have completed the Small Business Workshops series, funded by the Australian Government and supported by the Manus Provincial Government.

Participants were presented with certificates at a closing ceremony on Thursday, 21 May, in Manus, after completing a series of one day workshops over four months which were tailored to their business level.

Australian High Commissioner Ms Deborah Stokes said that the Small Business Workshop series is part of Australia's broader commitment to supporting economic growth in Papua New Guinea.

"Small businesses are the 'engine' for economic growth. These men and women are running small businesses which are providing much needed goods and services to the region. In particular, supporting female entrepreneurs is a priority for the Australian Government as they are a driving force as income earners – supporting themselves, their families and communities."

Manus Provincial Administrator Andrew Posong congratulated the participants on their commitment to attend the workshops each month, some traveling by boat from the outer islands.

"The workshops have been an excellent tool for Manusians to take advantage of economic opportunities in the region. Participants must make use of what they have learnt and be driven and determined in making their business goals successful.

"Already there are great examples of successful business ideas and initiatives in our region including IT, lawn mowing services, catering and trade stores," Mr Posong said.

The Small Business Workshops are delivered by the Provincial & Local-level Governments Program on behalf of the Australian Government and facilitated by QLD TAFE as part of a 2015 business development series for local communities in Manus.

Mentoring and training focussed on how to prepare a business plan, investigate business opportunities, set goals, develop financial management

tools, apply for business loans, procure goods and services, and market their business.

**ENDS/**

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